

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 AID-20 SCCT-02

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R 271040Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2963

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUANDA 0833

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PINT AO

SUBJECT: FNLA ACTIVITIES CAUSE CONCERN

REF: LUANDA 0817 AND 0813

1. THE ANGOLAN HIGH COMMAND IS CONCERNED ABOUT INCREASED FNLA OFFENSIVE MILITARY ACTIVITY (REFTELS) AND LOCAL PRESS REPORTS FROM CARMONA ALLUDING TO PANIC AMONG THE WHITE POPULATION DUE TO FNLA PRESENCE IN THE CITY AND TOTAL LACK OF PROTECTION FROM

THE ARMY. WE ASKED A SOURCE IN THE HIGH COMMAND FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE NORTHERN MILITARY ZONE (ZMN), WHERE THE FNLA IS MOST ACTIVE.

2. OUR SOURCE TOLD US THAT THE HIGH COMMAND NOW BELIEVES THAT FNLA HAS OVER 6,000 TROOPS IN ANGOLA. UP FROM 4,000 IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR AND 8,000 OR 9,000 IN ZAIRE, AS OPPOSED TO ONLY 5,000 SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. HE SAID THESE TROOPS HAVE BEEN EXTENSIVELY RE-EQUIPPED WITH LIGHT CHICOM ARMAMENTS DURING THE PAST SIX
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MONTHS. ACCORDING TO HIM, A SHIPMENT OF 450 TONS OF WEAPONS AND AMMO FROM THE PRC ARRIVED IN THE ZAIRE PORT OF MATADI ABOUT TWO

WEEKS AGO. PORTUGUESE INTELLIGENCE DOES NOT KNOW THE TYPE OF WEAPONS IN THE SHIPMENT; THEY HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE FNLA HAS RECEIVED EITHER SAM MISSILES OR 122MM ROCKETS.

3. OUR SOURCE CONTINUED THAT THE FNLA IS CONTINUING TO INFILTRATE LARGE NUMBERS OF TROOPS INTO THE DEMBOS, A MOUNTAINOUS AREA SOUTHWEST OF CARMONA. ONLY A HANDFUL OF FNLA RECRUITS ARE NOW DESERTING TO THE PORTUGUESE UPON ENTERING ANGOLA, A MARKED CHANGE FROM THE PRE-COUP PERIOD, WHEN MANY WOULD SNEAK AWAY AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO SURRENDER. FNLA TROOPS ARE NOW OPERATING NEAR CAXITO, A SMALL TOWN THIRTY-FIVE MILES NORTHEAST OF LUANDA; THIS IS THEIR CLOSEST PENETRATION TO THE CAPITAL SINCE 1961.

4. THE LUANDA PRESS CARRIED STORIES SEPTEMBER 25 AND 26 OF FNLA TROOPS ON THE STREETS OF CARMONA, ANGRY PUBLIC REACTION AND INACTIVITY ON THE PART OF THE ARMY. OUR SOURCE SAID THE STORIES WERE MALICIOUS AND WERE DESIGNED TO HEIGHTEN WHITE FEARS AND DISCREDIT THE ARMY. HE SAID THE STORY OF FNLA TROOPS IN CARMONA WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO A COINCIDENCE - SEVERAL CAPTURED FNLA PORTERS, STILL DRESSED IN FNLA FATIGUES, WERE RELEASED FROM CONFINEMENT IN CARMONA AND WERE WALKING OUT OF THE CITY TO HEAD FOR HOME. PEOPLE ASSUMED THE ARMY HAD LET THE FNLA INTO TOWN. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, WHITES IN THE CARMONA AREA WANT THE ARMY TO CARRY OUT OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS, BUT THE MILITARY CANNOT DO SO, AS IT IS UNDER ORDERS NOT TO ENGAGE IN OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS. ARMY DESPATCHES FROM CARMONA REPORT THAT THE FNLA IS HARRASSING FARMERS AND COFFEE GROWERS WHO MISTREAT THEIR AFRICAN HELP, BUT LEAVE BENEVOLENT EMPLOYERS IN PEACE.

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2969
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUANDA 0833

5. THE ARMY BELIEVES THAT FNLA'S INTENTIONS ARE TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON IN THE DEMBOS AND TO INFILTRATE ARMS AND MEN INTO LUANDA TO OBTAIN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE NEGOTIATING POSITION FOR EVENTUAL INDEPENDENCE TALKS. THE ARMY IS STILL COMMITTED TO STOPPING THIS INFILTRATION AND WILL ATTACK ANY GROUP THAT TRIES TO ENTER THE CITY, BUT WILL NOT GO INTO THE DEMBOS TO BREAK UP FNLA CAMPS. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT THE ARMED FORCES REVOLTED TO PUT AN END TO COLONIAL WARS AND LET AFRICANS CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY. THIS GOAL CANNOT BE REACHED BY ATTACKING AFRICANS, HE CONCLUDED. KILLORAN

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